

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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R 281405Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7158

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCEUR

USDOCS AFNORTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3606

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT PBOR MCAP NO UR

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SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ON SECURITY ISSUES

REFS: OSLO A-180 JULY 25, 1973

BEGIN SUMMARY. OUTGOING DEFENSE MINISTER JOHAN KLEPPE, IN SPEECH AT NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE, CALLED UPON NORWAY TO MAINTAIN A STRONGER DEFENSE TO CONTROL ITS OFFSHORE AREAS AND WARNED AGAINST ANY REDUCTION IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN VIEW OF SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP AND INCREASED IMPORTANCE OF NORTH SEA AREA (OIL AND GAS RESERVES) TO NORWAY. IN RARE PUBLIC REFERENCE TO ICELAND, KLEPPE SAID SECURITY CONSEQUENCES AFFECTING NORWAY'S SITUATION. SPEECH PROVOKED PROTEST BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN OSLO AND REPORTEDLY SHARP DENUNCIATION BY TASS. END SUMMARY.

1. DEFENSE OF CONTINENTAL SHELF. KLEPPE SPEECH, DELIVERED SEPTEMBER 18 AND WIDELY REPORTED IN PRESS FOLLOWING DAY, STRESSED RECURRING THEME OF NEED TO DEFEND NORWAY'S CONTINENTAL SHELF -- AN AREA THREE TIMES LARGER THAN NORWAY PROPER. SPEECH CITED "POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF SEA LIMITS GIVING COASTAL STATES MORE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES" AS JUSTIFICATION FOR STRONG NORWEGIAN DEFENSE POSTURE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF NORWEGIAN OIL AND NATURAL GAS RESERVES IN NORTH SEA.

2. SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP. KLEPPE HAS IN PAST BEEN CONSCIOUS OF MILITARY PRESSURE FROM SOVIET UNION AND SIZEABLE STRATEGIC FORCES DEPLOYED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO NORWAY. IN THIS ADDRESS, KLEPPE OBSERVED THAT NORWAY, AS ADHERENT OF "OPEN SEAS" POLICY, MUST REALIZE THAT "SUPERPOWERS" HAVE THEIR OWN POLITICAL-SECURITY INTERESTS AS EVIDENCED BY INCREASING NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN NORTH ATLANTIC. KLEPPE SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO NORWEGIAN VULNERABILITY IN FACE OF SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP AND IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT OF "SUBMARINE MISSILE SYSTEMS" UPON NORWEGIAN SEA AREA, URGING SOVIETS TO "USE AREAS CLOSE TO SOVIET UNION WHICH THEY ARE ABLE TO CONTROL THEMSELVES."

3. NORWAY AND NATO. KLEPPE STATED THAT NORWAY'S ALLIES UNDERSTAND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF NORWEGIAN SEA AND CALLED CONTINUED ALLIED MILITARY PRESENCE THERE "ESSENTIAL." IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS CONNECTION, HE SPECIFICALLY STRESSED SIGNIFICANCE OF INCREASED COOPERATION WITH NATO INCLUDING CONDUCT OF "ROUTINE" NATO EXERCISES.

4. DEFENSE SPENDING. DEFENSE MINISTER SAID NORWAY SHOULD ANTICIPATE GRADUAL INCREASE IN WARSAW PACT DEFENSE CAPABILITIES THEREBY INCREASING NORWAY'S OWN DEFENSE TASK. KLEPPE DECLARED THAT ANY CURTAILMENT OF MILITARY BUDGET WOULD BE "IRRESPONSIBLE."

(COMMENT: OUTGOING GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED DEFENSE BUDGET NOT YET PUBLISHED BUT EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS LEVEL OF INCREASE REDUCED FROM PREVIOUS YEAR. KLEPPE UNDOUBTEDLY MINDFUL OF ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON BUDGET NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT CAN EXPECT FROM SIXTEEN NEWLY-ELECTED LEFT WING ANTI-NATO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.)

5. IN RARE PUBLIC REFERENCE TO ICELAND, KLEPPE SAID "A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN NATO'S ACCESS TO THE KEFLAVIK BASE WILL HAVE SERIOUS SECURITY CONSEQUENCES AND ALSO AFFECT NORWAY'S SITUATION." (COMMENT: NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS HERETOFORE BEEN RELUCTANT TO TAKE PUBLIC POSITION ON MATTER INVOLVING ANOTHER "NORDIC" ALLY. KLEPPE'S STATEMENTS THUS REFLECT STRATEGIC VALUE NORWAY ATTACHES TO KEFLAVIK BASE AND DEGREE OF CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY OF PRECIPITATE ICELANDIC ACTION.)

6. EMBASSY RECENTLY LEARNED FROM SENIOR FONMIN OFFICIAL THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN OSLO (ROMANOVSKIY) HAS PROTESTED KLEPPE SPEECH AT MINISTRY AND REPORTEDLY CHARACTERIZED IT AS RETURN TO DAYS OF COLD WAR.

7. SEPTEMBER 27 AFTERNOON EDITION OF PRESTIGIOUS AFTENPOSTEN CARRIES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE FROM NTB MOSCOW REPORTING TASS ATTACK ON KLEPPE SPEECH. ACCORDING TO AFTENPOSTEN, TASS ARTICLE, ENTITLED "SWAN SONG FROM COLD WAR ADHERENT," ACCUSED KLEPPE OF SPEAKING "IN WORST TRDITIONS OF COLD WAR." NOTING THAT KLEPPE WILL "SOON BE UNEMPLOYED," TASS PIECE BEMOANED FACT THAT HE CHOSE TO MARK HIS RETIREMENT WITH SERIES OF ATTACKS ON SOVIET UNION. BYRNE

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